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Rural Municipal Land Assessments

Higher land assessment notices received by Alberta farmers in several municipalities do not necessarily mean that their taxes will increase proportionately.

Henry Gerloch of the Assessment Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs, says that if the municipal budget does not call for increased expenditures, the mill rate can be proportionately lowered to leave the average tax bill unchanged.

The main reason ratepayers have received higher assessment notices is that the basic value for farm land has been increased by one-third. From 1945-47 it was \$25 an acre, in 1952 it was raised to \$30 an acre and now it is \$40 per acre. This basic value is based upon the most productive land in the province. Poorer land is given a proportionately lower rating.

Legislation was passed recently requiring municipalities to be reassessed every seven years. The present program is being carried out for two main reasons. Many municipalities, which were enlarged in 1951-52 to co-incide with school boundaries have to be reassessed within their new boundary lines.

Mr. Gerloch points out that the assessment roll is available for inspection by any farmer for 30 days after assessment notices have been received in the area. Any ratepayer who is dissatisfied with his assessment should compare his rating with those for similar lands. Most municipalities keep the assessor in attendance for this period to explain assessment methods and to help ratepayers verify the accuracy of their assessments.

Twenty-Five Join Bruno Jr. FUA

A junior FUA has been organized at the Bruno Community Centre, recently. The club, the first of its kind in this district is proud of its 25 members. Under the direction of our Junior FUA Director Donna Sharon, our first meeting was held some time ago. Our officers were elected as follows: President — Marshal Napora, Vice-president — Larry Tebbutt, Secretary — Nick Sydora, Treasurer — June Vancott, and Publicity Officer — Iris Bohaychuk.

Projects for raising money were discussed and we decided to have a percentage bingo among the members. At a later date, we hope to hold a dance at the Bruno Community Centre. The debating teams have started their debates some time ago and they are by now, quite well accustomed to the procedure of debates.

Our meetings are held regularly every Monday, commencing at 8 p.m. in the Bruno Hall. The meetings are brought to a pleasant close with the lunches served by our lunch committee.

WARBLE FLY CONTROL

A biological control method for the warble fly is being studied at the Lethbridge Research Station. The principle is to cut down on the warble population by chemically producing sterility in the male and preventing fertilization of the eggs. A similar technique using gamma radiation was used successfully on the screwworm in the United States.



HAPPY WARRIORS: Presented with the beautiful Alberta Wheat Pool Trophy by Edmonton Manager Murray Wood, the Picture Butte Rink were a tired but happy group. They had played 4 draws that day, winning each. The final against Radway ended about 9:30 p.m. Team members are (left to right) lead—Cyril Noble, 2nd Norman Kleist, 3rd Johnny Barron, and skip Floyd Gillis. On the table are the miniatures the winners took home with them. The big trophy will remain on display at F.U.A. head office. Alberta Wheat Pool Trophies are presented to winning rinks at many of the F.U.A. District Bonspiels as well.

F.U.A. CHAMPIONSHIP GOES TO DISTRICT FOURTEEN

F.U.A. District 14 defeated District 4 to win the Alberta Wheat Pool Trophy, emblematic of the Farmers' Union Provincial Curling Championship. March 11 at the Sportex in Edmonton.

Skipped by Floyd Gillis, the District 14 crew had to come from behind to take the event. They had to beat the "A" event winners twice on March 11. It was the last half of a long day which saw them curl in four draws, winning each time. The Gillis rink is from Picture Butte.

"A" event winners in the 14 rink 'spiel were from Radway. Rink Captain Cornell Kuzik had held the District 4 entry in a dominant position throughout the three day double-knockout competition. Only the final victory was out of his reach.

The Gillis rink had lost one of its "lives" to the Virgil Gerber foursome, from Kelsey, in F.U.A.

District 8. Gerber was later eliminated by Kuzik.

Last year, the first time this event was held, only 11 districts were represented. This year, all fourteen districts had teams entered. And curling was very competitive, observers and players agreed.

Entries are limited to F.U.A. members and their families. No estimate is available as to just how many rinks entered the district eliminations leading to the Provincial Final. However, the popularity of this relatively new event among rural people has shown growth, and plans are that the F.U.A. Provincial Curling Championship will be a permanent fixture. Feelers toward an eventual National Farm Union Championship are being made.

The Alberta Wheat Pool and the Farmers' Union of Alberta teamed up Tuesday evening,

March 9, to provide a banquet for curlers at the Coachman Inn.

G. L. Harrold, Wheat Pool President, served as chairman this year. Mr. Paul Babey was MC for the curling banquet last year. The heads of the two organizations will henceforth alternate in this role.

Fifty-six curlers, several wives, and bonspiel officials enjoyed the dinner provided, and later entered into a discussion of a selection of colored slides shown by Ken Nelson on the F.U.A. China Tour. Mr. Harrold, who had also been with the China Tour delegation, spoke for a few moments on his impressions of that country.



FIRST ROCK: While curlers look on, the new Alberta Minister of Lands and Forests, Henry Ruste, does a proper job of throwing out that first hunk of granite to get the second annual F.U.A. Curling Championships "on ice," Tuesday morning. During three days, March 9-10-11, Alberta Wheat Pool fieldman Ed Ness (who acted as referee) said he watched some of the best, most competitive shot making he had seen anywhere.

increase compared to those of coarse grains.

During the 1964 season, Alberta produced the following crop acreages. The percentage of total Canadian production is in brackets.

Wheat 6.5 million (22%), barley 3.3 million (61%), oats 2.0 (24%), rapeseed 368,000 (43%), flax 350,000 (18%), rye 182,000 (27%) and mixed grains 328,000 (23%).

Quote . . .

. . . The co-operative principle is not just a way of credit or marketing or the like. That of course, it is. But I say, it is a way of life also. If you make it a way of life, you not only tend to solve the country's problems but also help in solving international problems.

—Pandit Nehru

Bigger Oat, Barley Planting Needed In 1965

Which is the best cereal crop to grow this season? Alberta's Agricultural Statistician R. E. English advises farmers to plan their cropping programs by multiplying expected prices per bushel by expected yields.

Mr. English points out that coarse grains are in a more competitive position than formerly. Oat and barley prices have strengthened in the last few months while wheat prices have dropped about 12c a bushel.

Members of the Federal-Provincial Conference, which met in Ottawa last November, report that an additional 1½ to 2 million acres of oats and 1 million acres of barley will be required in 1965.

More Barley

Mr. English says it seems reasonable to expect acreages to increase this year. Oat production may also increase due to improved prices, the fact that this crop does well on stubble and farmers' experience with barley crops in the northern part of the province.

Prices received for cereal grains during the past nine years, says Mr. English, have resulted in in-

creased wheat acreages in all parts of the province. This has been accompanied by a decrease in coarse grain acreages in all areas except those around Red Deer, Lethbridge and Macleod. This decrease has occurred despite the fact that the total acreage of cereal grains grown in the province has increased by 430,000.

Mr. English reports that on the basis of estimates made for the period 1956 to 1964, oat and flax crops can be expected to produce 72 percent as high yields on stubble as on fallow land. Barley yields 67 percent, wheat 64 percent and rapeseed only 58 percent.

At current prices and total digestible nutrients per pound of feed, barley is a cheaper feed than oats, says Mr. English.

Wheat Still King

Wheat will certainly remain the major crop in the prairie region even though cattle feeding has increased and considerable progress has been made in barley production. Although the black and greywooded soils are the best for coarse grain production, whenever wheat prices rise, wheat acreages

Editorial . . .

Farm Union Services — Legal Advice

In the next few issues we shall deal with the services offered to the members of the Farmers' Union.

This week we will deal with the Legal Service. Members can make legal enquiries only through our head office, either written or personal. If they are of such a nature, that from past experience we can deal with them here, we will do so. If however, these problems are beyond our scope, they will be turned over to our legal advisors.

Help in solving problems, provided by the F.U.A. staff, will be free of charge to members. Members will be advised as to the feasibility of further action and the approximate costs and results. Should legal action and court proceedings be necessary, these will be **at the member's expense**. The F.U.A. is not responsible for members' legal fees.

—D. G.

BULLETIN BOARD

A short summary of Farm Organization Doings in the Province of Alberta during the next three weeks.

TEEN CAMP PLANNING MEETINGS (F.U. & C.D.A.)

March 22—for Districts 3, 4, 5 at St. Paul Co-op.

March 25—for Districts 11, 12, 13, 14 at Medicine Hat Library.

* * *

March 25—Sub-Dist. of Bow Island 7:30 p.m. to discuss County Teams.

March 26—Brooks Sub. District Board Meeting at Idlesleigh.

March 31—County Team Organization Meeting for County of Minburn at Innisfree 7:30 p.m.

April 15—Wetaskiwin F.U.A. Workshop (program planning, etc.) 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

* * *

Meetings to be addressed by F.U.A. President Paul Babey

ELK POINT — March 25 (evening)

BEAVERLODGE — March 29 (afternoon)

GRANDE PRAIRIE — March 29 (evening)

WOKING LEGION HALL — March 30 (2:00 p.m.)

EAGLESHAM — March 30 (8:00 p.m.)

FAIRVIEW — March 31 (2:00 p.m.)

NAMPA — March 31 (2:00 p.m.)

HIGH PRAIRIE — April 1

CAMROSE — April 2 (evening)

* * *

FARM YOUNG PEOPLE'S NIGHT at Thorhild, April 3.
Sponsored by County Team

SEND YOUR BULLETIN BOARD NOTICES AT LEAST
TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE.

THE NEW RAILWAY ACT

By Bill Harper

Canada is a very large country, and rather thinly populated. As a result transportation is a very big problem in Canada. In order to hold our country together, Canadians have to keep up a great many miles of railways, roads and airlines, and this has always been a costly business. This seems to be particularly true of our railways. They received grants of land and money from the government in order to complete construction, and over much of the 75 years since they were built they have found themselves in financial difficulties and have had to get further grants in order to keep going.

The McPherson Royal Commission on Transportation which reported in 1961, set out a blueprint for Canada's railway system. The federal government has introduced Bill C-120, which proposes to

amend the Railway Act, pretty much along the lines recommended in the Commission Report.

1. The Crow's Nest Freight Rates will remain as they are now. If the railways can satisfy the Board of Transport Commissioners, at any time, that they are actually losing money by hauling grain at these rates, the federal government will subsidize them to the amount of the proven loss.

2. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture asked that some group be set to examine all requests by the railways, for the abandonment of branch lines. This has been done. The Branch Line Rationalization Authority, composed of three men, is to be established. When a railway asks that a line be abandoned because it is not paying its way, the Board of Transport Commissioners examines the figures, and if the line is losing money, then it must be abandoned within five years, unless there is no reasonable transportation available in the area. It is then the job of the Rationalization Authority to decide just when within the next five years abandonment will take place. They cannot delay it beyond 5 years except under very special circumstances, and even if there is no other transportation available these non-paying lines must all be abandoned in 15 years—by 1979 at the latest. Only by special order-in-council can a non-paying line be kept in operation after that date.

Between the time a rail line is found to be unprofitable, and the

Credit Unions

Canada's 4700 credit unions provide saving and loan services to one Canadian in six.

F.W.U.A. REPORT AND APRIL STUDY

Defence Against Disaster Concern of Farmers Too!

By Mrs. Paulina Jasman

As this is my first report to the Organized Farmer since my election to the office of 2nd Vice-president of the Farm Women's Union of Alberta, I wish to extend on behalf of Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Huddleston and myself, greetings from your FWUA executive. Mrs. Helen James, 1st Vice-president of the FWUA, though confined to the hospital is making favorable progress and we pray that her recovery will be complete. At the time of writing this report, Mrs. Johnston will be with the National Farmers' Union delegation presenting the annual brief on Agriculture to our Federal Government. We trust that their endeavours will be fruitful.

My first commitment following the Annual Convention in December, was to represent the FWUA at a Government sponsored Civil Defence Course held at the Edmonton Jubilee Auditorium. Six years ago I attended the Alberta Civil Defence School in Edmonton, representing the town of Three Hills and am amazed at the progress that has been made in Civil Defence since the time of its inception.

Civil Defence

Since the dawn of history, human survival has depended on being prepared. Individuals, families, and communities have discovered that the effects of a disaster were decreased when preparations had been made in advance.

Although all efforts are being made to maintain peace, we



Mrs. Paulina Jasman

not ignore the possibility of a war. For this reason we cannot afford to be complacent about the planning of appropriate measures to ensure the survival of our nation in an emergency period.

During the course, many aspects of Civil Defence were viewed and dealt with such as — Emergency Health Measures, Emergency Fire Service, Emergency Police Services, Municipal Radiological Defence Services, National Survival and Warning Systems, Civil Disaster, and Emergency Communications. The one particularly emphasized and the one that I am principally concerned with in this report is Civil Disaster.

Civil Disaster

Civil Disaster effects the safety, health and welfare — the very life — of individuals, families, groups and communities. Disasters of various types have been featured in the newspaper headlines in the past few months. There was the crash of the DC 8 aircraft leaving Montreal and the Alaska earthquake with its tremendous property damage as well as loss of life. That earthquake was the direct cause of the disastrous tidal wave which struck Port Alberni in British Columbia and may also be a contributing factor to the recent slides in British Columbia that caused loss of life and extensive damage. In the United States there were the floods in northern California, where the disaster was compounded by a blizzard striking at the same time. Along the Atlantic Coast there were hurricanes again

last Fall, and there have been disasters in other parts of the world.

Here in Alberta, we have been very fortunate in that no large scale disaster, other than the Lamont bus accident, has occurred for a long time, but that does not mean that we are immune. One of the characteristics of disaster is that it is usually sudden and it is up to us to make plans for coping with a disaster any place in the province.

Recently, there has been a growing awareness at all levels of government, Federal, Provincial and Municipal, of the need for plans and an organization that can quickly and effectively cope with disaster. In all of the Provinces, there is legislation which deals with disaster but the detailed plans to implement this legislation, in most cases, have yet to be developed. At the municipal level, the only properly developed plan that we are aware of is that of the City of Winnipeg for dealing with another Red River Flood.

All municipalities are not entirely unprepared, for — through the agency of the Emergency Health Services — a large number of hospitals in Alberta now have hospital disaster plans which have been tested and proven through hospital disaster exercises. The hospital disaster plans, however, can not be effective unless they are supported by other services in the community. It is with those other municipal services and the development of an overall provincial and municipal plan which the Emergency Measures Organization is concerned.

Emergency Measures Organizations

Emergency Measures Organizations exist for the prime purpose of helping municipalities to be as capable as possible of meeting any real or threatening emergency. For emergency help to be effective it must be developed close to the people. There are some 310 counties, M.D.'s, Towns and Villages in the Province of Alberta. Obviously, close contact with 310 municipal governments would be difficult to maintain from one central office. Consequently Zone Headquarters have been introduced to each of three points in this province. The Three Zones in Alberta are: Peace River Zone, Northern Zone and Southern Zone.

Development Forecast During 1965

The intention is to increase the preparedness of communities which have made some progress and, in conjunction with Emergency Health Services, to help others get started in this very worthwhile endeavour.

It is also intended this year, under the guidance of Alberta EMO Exercises and Studies Division, to involve certain municipalities in more advanced exercises. These will involve the problems of reception of evacuees in rural communities, and the problems of living in and operating a community under conditions of radioactive fallout.

In addition to the above, progress in the Organization, development of Survival Planning and Training in each community of the Zone will be checked regularly against standards, so that maximum use of available resources may be made throughout the year.

To conclude, EMO cannot carry out its role without a good information program. The achievement of good public reaction, even though passive in times such as these is the responsibility of all of us.

F.U.A. Income Tax Service

REMINDER:

Because of the RUSH

OUR RATES GO UP

IN APRIL (SEVEN TO TEN DOLLARS)

Write or Telephone

F.U.A. Income Tax Service

9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alta.

Phone 424-0375

FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

9934 - 106 St., Edmonton, Alta.
Phone 424-0375
After 5:00 p.m. 489-6955

the organized farmer

EDITOR — KEN NELSON

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FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

9934 - 106 St., F.U.A. Bldg.,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Wildoats Control With 2,4-D

March is proclaimed good seed month, as farmers start planning their operations for the coming year. Good clean seed is very important because the old saying will always come true — "As ye sow, so shall ye reap."

In many areas of this province wild oats has been a consistent problem, especially in the wheat growing sections. This culprit has certain peculiarities that make it difficult for the farmer to control. It will remain dormant for long periods of time and germinate only when moisture conditions and soil temperature suits it. The weed will mature rapidly, shatter easily and usually deposit all of its seed on the ground, in preparation for next years' re-growth.

Many methods have been used successfully to control wild oats. Farmers have switched to such means as; summerfallow, delayed seeding, spraying, swathing, forage, etc. Even with the best management practices it is extremely difficult to eradicate this weed.

I have been doing some practical experiments in controlling wild oats with 2,4-D Ester. It sounds ridiculous at first but permit me to explain.

First of all in preparing a seed bed, especially for wheat, the important thing, I found is to cultivate the top soil shallowly, usually with a cultivator followed by harrows. This practice will not be applicable to all areas of the province, but mainly to sections that have at least an average rainfall. By stirring the soil as early as possible you can encourage germ-

ination of the oats that remained dormant from the year previous.

The procedure followed then, is to wait as long as you can before seeding wheat (in the northern area normally it is risky to seed beyond the 18th of May). After seeding wheat it will take about eight to ten days for emergence under normal conditions.

Keep Close Watch

This period, after seeding, has to be watched very carefully. Usually the soil temperature has risen to the point where wild oats start to germinate and if conditions are right, do they ever come! The first evidence of green on the field is most cases is wild oats.

From my experiments it is very essential to watch the germination of the wheat as well, because once the wheat crop breaks the surface it is then too late to apply 2,4-D. However, by careful scrutiny, one can wait until the wheat crop is ready to break surface. With an ordinary sprayer I have applied 20 ounces of 2,4-D Ester per acre, to the growth that was there. Since there is no residual effect this will not harm the wheat crop that will be breaking the surface later.

From two years experience the kill has been about 90% regardless of the stage the wild oat crop was in. The remaining plants that do not die immediately take on new forms of growth. Some spring up and grow about one foot above the wheat crop but find extreme difficulty in heading

out. Other plants that do head out are peculiar, in that many kernels of oats are attached to the one vine. Still others drop their kernels immediately after heading out, and most kernels that head out do not fill at all.

While two years experiments do not qualify me to expound this as a proven method, I do feel that there are some advantages to be gained from using 2,4-D Ester.

(1) The cost of application is low, approximately 80 cents to \$1.00 per acre.

(2) The heavy application of 2,4-D kills most of the plants, regardless of stage of growth.

(3) The advantage over rod-weeding is that you can wait much longer, to just prior to crop emergence, before application. Secondly, you don't disturb the soil, which could be a problem in drier areas.

(4) Spraying can be done quickly, and economically.

(5) Any broad leaf plants that have emerged are killed also.

Correct Timing Essential

The disadvantage of using 2,4-D is that you are limited in the time of the application, that is, you can only spray prior to emergence. However, with care-

ful timing it is possible, if conditions are right.

In closing, again I offer this only on the basis of two years practical experience. If wild oats are a problem in your area I suggest that you experiment as I did, and with an exchange of experiences all farmers can benefit. I don't expect that I will receive a pat on the back for this suggestion from the industries which manufacture Wild Oat Chemical Sprays. However, because of increasing costs and diminishing returns farmers are forced to search for greater efficiencies, and this may be one that could be applicable in your area.

—Paul Babey

F.U.A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We Told Them Where We Stand; Now, We Must Prove We Mean IT

March comes in like a lion and the National Farmers' Union roars at politicians in Ottawa while making its annual presentation to government, and to each of the political parties.

The submission to government took place on Monday, March 1. Representing the government were Prime Minister Pearson, Trade Minister Mitchell Sharp, Agricultural Minister Harry Hays, as well as other ministers and government aides. I felt the hearing was satisfactory as many questions were raised.

The Prime Minister and his colleagues spent two-and-a-half hours in discussion, dealing with the majority of the topics outlined in the submission. Prime Minister Pearson commented that the brief covered a lot of ground, very clearly and with common sense, as it always does. His hope was that some of the points raised in our submission would be dealt with in the coming session, and that when we returned next year, many issues would not be in our next submission as the government would enact legislation to correct the problems. He indicated that the government was aware of the major problems facing Parliament, and also other matters though not

strictly agricultural but related to agriculture—like steel prices and recognition of China.

As far as steel prices are concerned, the government was not interfering at this time, but they were making inquiries and were aware of the importance of the matter. The Prime Minister also touched on health matters, pensions, and the need for an opportunity to discuss transportation matters in committee.

The N.F.U. brief was a very well documented submission. A graph comparing farm prices and farm costs indicated a continuing rise in costs and a very sharp decline in farm prices particularly between '62 and '64. It pointed out a widening gap between returns and costs to farmers.

The ARDA programs were defined as curative measures for situations that presently exist. It was our belief that serious consideration should now be given toward implementation of preventive policies which will prevent the present viable farms from falling into the non-viable section.

Supports on New Basis

Present inadequate support prices came under fire and received overdue criticism. The original concept of support policies has been to act as "disaster" measures in circumstances where much of the shock of income price drops could not be absorbed by the farmer or unpaid family worker. Farm mechanization has now released the unpaid family worker from farm employment, and transferred farm losses to a machine base.

The present archaic support prices are too low to provide a realistic level of income protection to the food producer.

For example the effective price of live steers is \$17.75 based at Toronto. An efficient feed lot operator informs me that it costs over 20c a pound for gain on live steers. With the unrealistic support which falls over \$4.00 below cost of production, livestock producers lost millions of dollars last year because of a severe price decline. Price supports at present levels would come into effect only after the farmer has declared hopeless bankruptcy.

The N.F.U. maintained that the family farm is the keystone of our agricultural industry. Farm unions have accepted the principle of price supports on basic values of production as a means of preventing the development of factory or corporate farms.

License Farmers

Consideration was also expressed for the need of certification of bona fide farm units and to limit eligibility for price support to such units as are dependent upon agricultural production for a very substantial portion of their livelihood.

A sizeable portion of the brief dealt with the concern and dismay of farm people, brought on by the recent decline in export and domestic wheat prices. Our stand for subsidization of \$2.00 per bushel wheat, as well as initiating a more

aggressive sales policy, and increasing imports from our large wheat customers, was reiterated.

Under grain marketing, N.F.U. proposals included several items, urged that the wheat board should have jurisdiction over flax, rye, rapeseed, mustard and sunflower.

National Marketing Boards

The feed freight assistance program recommended the establishment of a feed grain authority to distribute feed purchased from the Canadian Wheat Board. It would administer the feed freight assistance program and also limit assistance on a given volume so that the small farmer would receive the most benefit, thereby discouraging the trend toward vertical integration.

Farm officials stressed the need for national marketing boards, with power to control, and to market commodities produced on farms.

Support for a national health plan was voiced with recommendations as outlined in the Hall Commission report.

The high cost of prescription drugs and medicines in Canada was of serious concern to the Unions. Removal of the present 11% federal sales tax applied to drugs and medicines was requested as we did not feel that taxation on ill health is a moral means of raising revenue for our country.

Other areas of the brief dealt with Canada pension plan, a call for a Royal Commission investigation into the farm implement industry, prairie farm assistance on an individual basis, changes to Transportation Bill C120, credit requirements, succession duties, bankruptcy act, and others.

Election Brewing?

Following the meeting with the Cabinet, the N.F.U. delegates met with the members of all the other political parties. The extreme politeness of the discussions almost tempted one to believe that an election was in the offing.

Saskatchewan province had a group of 30 farmers accompanying their representatives. Following the presentation, they went in to Quebec province to get better acquainted with farm conditions and farm people in that area.

Tour Information

While in Ottawa I visited the Indian Embassy to secure information on the proposed tour to India. Also in discussing the imports of Chinese, Russian and Japanese goods with the Department of Trade and Commerce, it was interesting to find out the complications of calculating values to tariffs for goods being brought into Canada. We are presently pursuing this matter with the Department of Revenue and will report to you as soon as figures are available.

Our membership returns have almost stopped. We are much below last year. Any canvassing uncompleted should be attended to immediately. Don't wait for spring —Do it now!

—Paul Babey

Crop Insurance Deadline Near For Three Alberta Test Areas

Plans to implement a crop insurance program in three test areas of Alberta are moving ahead on schedule. Rates have been set, public meetings held, agents appointed and the sign-up of farmers is now underway.

There has been keen interest in the program at meetings held in each area and while it is much too early to predict the percentage of sign-up, early results are encouraging. A minimum of 25 per cent of the eligible farmers in a test area must sign up for crop insurance before the plan can go into operation.

The three areas selected to test crop insurance this year are in the Nobleford-Vulcan, the Lacombe-Ponoka, and the Ranfurly-Vermilion areas. Each comprises a block of 28 to 30 townships. The Lacombe-Ponoka area has from 1500 to 1600 farmers, the Ranfurly-Vermilion area about 1400 and the Vulcan-Nobleford area close to 800.

The three areas represent widely varying crop and climatic conditions and should provide an excellent test of the crop insurance program.

Among the first applications there is a great variation in indicated premiums. (They cannot be firmly established until after seeding is completed). These vary from less than \$15.00 for a small farm in central Alberta to cover \$1,000 in the south. Liability to the corporation in these two extremes varies from about \$300.00 to more than \$13,000.00 This is an indication that the program has an attraction to the small and the large farmer—both of whom are strapped by high fixed costs which must be met regardless of the size of the crop.

Deadline Nears

This year, insurance is offered for only spring wheat, oats and barley. But other crops will be added in the years ahead as experience is gained and long-term statistical data, on which rates are based, is accumulated.

Since all applications for insurance must be completed prior to April 30, and it is the intention

of the corporation to personally contact every farmer in the three test areas before that time, the next few weeks will be busy ones. And since there has been widespread interest in crop insurance since plans to establish a program in Alberta were announced last year, farmers in all sections of the province will be watching closely the progress that is made.

Rapeseed Research Grant Made by U.G.G. to U. of S.

Saskatoon, March 11—Dr. W. J. White, acting dean of agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, accepted a \$5,000 John E. Brownlee Research grant to-day from D. L. Trapp, of Harris, a vice-president of the United Grain Growers. The money will be used by Dr. J. M. Bell, head, Animal Science Department, U. of S., for research on rapeseed meal.

Rapeseed contains certain undesirable factors that may remain in the meal residue following extraction of the oil, Dr. Bell commented. As a result of these characteristics the use of rapeseed meal for swine and poultry feeds is limited.

Offending compounds are now known and notable progress has already been made toward removing or controlling them. Basically, rapeseed has a very good quality of protein for promotion of growth in animals and every effort must

The Rural Poor

The truth is that there is a lot of poverty in the rural areas of Canada, and in the rural areas of Alberta, and there need not be. No doubt many of these people get assistance of one kind or another but this only solves their problems temporarily.

If the ARDA program can help a substantial number of them to raise their living standards above the poverty level, then it will be the best money Canada can invest in terms of both financial and social benefits.

—Bill Harper

be made to retain this quality, Dr. Bell said.

Dr. White added that it is extremely important to the rapeseed industry and to western Canadian agriculture that rapeseed meal be improved and placed in a truly competitive situation with other plant-origin protein supplements such as linseed meal and soybean paid to the farmer for his rapeseed and could affect the export situation as well.

New Crop Varieties

Several new crop varieties have recently been recommended for use in various parts of Alberta.

One of these is a Polish rapeseed variety called Echo. Echo has yielded up to 2,500 pounds per acre since it was released last year and has a stronger straw than the common Polish rapeseed.

Pendek is a new variety of medium-early oats which has a strong short straw. This feature makes it particularly valuable in areas where lodging is a problem. It is also recommended for areas where too much straw creates a problem working the straw without resorting to burning.

A new variety of wheat, known as Park, is noted for its early maturity. Although Park gives slightly lower yields than Thatcher, it is easier to thresh and does not bleach readily.

FARM PLANNING IN QUEBEC

Taken from a broadcast by Bill Harper for "The Voice of Agriculture," heard over many Alberta radio stations

The 1961 census showed 96,000 farmers in Quebec. It is estimated that this was down to 90,000 by the end 1964. This means that in Quebec, as in Alberta and the rest of Canada, there is a drift away from the farm.

It means also that this is a planless affair. People are starved off in many cases, and are forced to look elsewhere for a living. The federal government, and the Quebec provincial government, working together under the ARDA program, are hoping to make this change as part of a planned program, which is certainly long overdue.

The ARDA planners will carry out, over the next year a full study of all the farms in Quebec, and from this study, they hope to be able to decide which farms must be eliminated over the next 10 years, and how they should be recombined into 40,000 larger units. These units, it is hoped, will be big enough to each provide a good living for a farm family. The 50,000 farmers whose farms are

combined with others will have three choices — to stay and take over one of the larger farms, in which case they will join a farm management group, and really learn to apply scientific and business principles to their operations, or to work as hired men on these larger farms, or to leave the farm and work at some other job.

Not Mixed Farms

One of the big changes will be that these large farms will make no attempt to be self-sufficient, mixed farms. If a farm is particularly well suited to growing potatoes, that's what it will grow — entirely. If it is a dairy farm, it will not produce anything else, and so on. However, beef cattle and sheep are being introduced into areas where they have not been raised before.

This replanning of Quebec's agriculture will be done as much as possible by local people, and each area will be handled separately. Already one community has decided to disband, in order to make room for an entirely new set up within their area. Others will probably do likewise, once they have looked over their possibilities and decided how to proceed.

The old province of Quebec may be leading the way into a new, planned farming industry in Canada. It may very well be that some time in the future, no farm unit in Canada will be allowed to operate unless it is large enough to provide the operator with a good average living.

60 Sask. Grads Win Diplomas

The School of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, will hold its annual graduation on Thursday, March 25, at 2 p.m. in Convocation Hall. Some 60 students will receive diplomas.

A vocational training school established as part of the College of Agriculture at the U. of S., it provides a two-year course in practical training in the business of farming. Most of the students are preparing themselves to become efficient farmers. There are opportunities also for employment in fields related to agriculture.

The British Farmers' Union: We Can Learn From Them

The F.U.A. represents about one half of the active commercial farmers in Alberta. We gain slightly each year. The total number remains about the same, but since there are less farmers every year, we gain in percentage of the total.

Canada has always been considered as an agricultural country, and in spite of our industrial growth over the past 25 years, agriculture is still very big business here. On the other hand, we usually think of Britain as a small country, highly industrialized, and with not much in the way of farming.

The fact is that the agricultural production of the British Isles is quite amazing. They produce almost all the dairy products and vegetables they need, most of the meat and poultry products, and even half the wheat they need. Yet their population is nearly three times as great as that of Canada.

This remarkable record has not been made by accident. The British farmers are highly organized, and their government has given them every assistance and encouragement. Alberta farmers could very well take a lesson in farm organization from their fellow farmers in the British Isles.

Most Are Members

In the first place, almost every farmer over there is a member of the National Farmers Union of Britain. This is not compulsory, but there are so many advantages to belonging that every farmer wants to join. Secondly the fees they pay are high, and this gives their union power to do a job. Fees are scaled according to the acreage of the farm, and the type

British Co-ops

Britain's 870 retail co-operatives have almost 13 million members and annual sales totalling over \$3 billion.

of farming. The grain or pasture land pays a low rate, and the specialized crops a high rate. Even the greenhouse farmers with their small areas under glass, belong to the union and their rates per acre, or per foot are very high.

Because the British Farmers Union has finances, they carry on a continual research program dealing with farmers' problems, of both production and marketing. Their work is recognized, and the government of Britain has the greatest respect for the research they do. In fact a good deal of the research into the handling and marketing of farm products in Britain is turned over by the government to the Farmers Union, and when any changes in agricultural policy are required, the government calls in the union officials, and together they work out the necessary legislation.

Recently the National Farmers Union of Britain published a report, under the title "British Agri-

culture Looks Ahead." This report makes 77 recommendations, which the union feels must be introduced, if the British farmers are to do their job well in the future, and if they are to get a reasonable share of the national income. Many of these recommendations sound as though they had come from our own F.U.A. convention. For example, it is pointed out that farm income has not kept pace, even in Britain, with the income of other groups in society. Within the next three years, says the Farmers Union, farm income must be increased by 25%. Last March the British Government did make adjustments to farm prices, which the union regards as the first step toward equalization of income.

The subject of farm marketing is always being examined and overhauled by the British Farmers Union, and the Department of Agriculture. The union believes that markets should be controlled by government or preferably by the producers. They see marketing as part of the farm business, and believe that farmers should look after it with a little help from the government when necessary.

Support World Food Program

The Farmers Union of Great Britain also strongly supports a World Food Program, and international agreements in the handling of foodstuffs. They have some sound practical ideas in this regard, and the British Government pays close attention to them.

Canada has learned a lot from Britain in the past. Our whole social structure is largely modelled on what they have developed over the years. Our Canadian farmers can learn a lot from the British farmer, when it comes to supporting, and getting results from, their Farmers Union.

Their farmers have learned to work together, to provide their organization with adequate finances, and they expect that organization to help, and influence and work with the government, in preparing legislation and farm programs which will benefit them. There is no question that they are getting good results.

Nordic Display At EXPO '67

Filke Cleason, Commissioner General for Sweden at EXPO '67, says the five Nordic countries joining to exhibit at the World Exhibition hope to have their pavilion built before next December at a cost of about \$5,000,000.

The countries are Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. With completion in December, the countries will have "1966 and part of 1967 for gardening, completion of the interior, and so forth."

Mr. Claeson, who has organized more than 100 exhibitions and fairs of various kinds, told a Montreal press conference that "I have seen nothing better" than EXPO's planning.

He said the five Nordic countries will each have their own sections within the joint building. Individual participation would have been too costly, he said. "Together, we can have a bigger pavilion and a bigger effort."

He said he expects some 40,000 to 50,000 persons will come from the five countries to visit EXPO.

Farmer Efficiency Lifts Our Living Standards

Farmers should be getting their share of the abundance of this country which they are helping to create. Instead they are getting the short end of the stick. This opinion was stated forcefully by Professor C. A. Hyman, Department of Sociology of the University of Alberta, speaking to a supper meeting of FUA canvassers in Radway.

The efficiency of agriculture is what makes industry possible, Prof. Hyman pointed out. Why is it then, he asked, that the farmer is getting far less than his rightful share, at the same time as his image is that of a 'beggar' in town eyes?

Fewer and fewer farmers he went on, produce more and more food until today most of the people in the industrial countries are free to work at other things, assured that they will be able to continue getting the food they need. We live on the edge of 'super abundance', and it is a wonderful place to live. But unless the whole economy is willing to make necessary adjustments, the farmers will continue to get the short end of the stick. This imbalance could eventually put us off the edge of abundance.

Because the town dweller may not fully understand the situation, farmers have an obligation to pull together to be sure their voice is heard wherever board policy and planning for the whole economy is being formed.

Every farmer should feel obligated to join an organization which is keeping his very good case before the general public, Prof. Hyman concluded.

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TO OUR MISSING MEMBERS:

In order to carry out fully the program for 1965 mapped out by the Annual Convention and the U.F.A. Board of Directors, we must count on all our members taking out their renewals. And to take full advantage of such F.U.A. services as the Insurance Pools, Income Tax Service, M.S.I., etc., continuous membership is necessary. So, if the canvasser hasn't called, use the coupon below to renew your F.U.A. membership.

With concern,

Paul Babey

MISSING MEMBERS

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